

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 22, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Garcia)

August 4, 2014

House Resolution No. 51—Relative to immigration.

1 WHEREAS, Inscribed on our nation’s Statue of Liberty are the
2 words, “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses
3 yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming
4 shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp
5 beside the golden door!”; and
6 WHEREAS, The number of unaccompanied Central American
7 children fleeing violence and entering the United States has resulted
8 in 52,000 apprehensions by United States Immigration and
9 Customs Enforcement, with a projected total of 90,000
10 apprehensions of unaccompanied minors expected by the end of
11 September 2014; and
12 WHEREAS, Approximately 28 percent of the children detained
13 this year have been from Honduras, 24 percent from Guatemala,
14 and 21 percent from El Salvador, countries whose respective
15 murder rates are among the top six highest murder rates in the
16 world; and
17 WHEREAS, The prevalence of gang violence, sexual assault,
18 political corruption, as well as poverty in Central American
19 countries has prompted unaccompanied minors to leave their home
20 countries and immigrate to the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, The President of El Salvador and Minister of
2 Foreign Relations of Guatemala acknowledge that pull factors,
3 such as family reunification, economic opportunity, and improved
4 quality of life are driving unaccompanied minors to immigrate to
5 the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Office of the United Nations High
7 Commissioner for Refugees urges the United States to grant
8 refugee status to Central American children who have crossed the
9 border, estimating that 60 percent of the children who have fled
10 into the United States have been forcibly displaced, qualifying
11 them for asylum under international law; and

12 WHEREAS, In accordance with the William Wilberforce
13 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, *and*
14 *other laws*, the United States must ensure that these unaccompanied
15 children have access to due process, lawyers, a judge, and justice;
16 and

17 ~~WHEREAS, Central American governments take full~~
18 ~~responsibility for the flow of unaccompanied children to the United~~
19 ~~States, recognizing that their respective countries could and should~~
20 ~~do more to mitigate the push factors driving so many children to~~
21 ~~flee to the United States, including lack of economic development~~
22 ~~opportunities, rampant poverty, and political corruption; and~~

23 ~~WHEREAS, Central American countries acknowledge their~~
24 ~~responsibility to ensure successful integration for the~~
25 ~~unaccompanied children who are repatriated back home; and~~

26 ~~WHEREAS, Central American countries are working toward~~
27 ~~improving their socioeconomic conditions by implementing~~
28 ~~measures that will, over time, help improve the quality of life of~~
29 ~~their people and curtail mass immigration. These measures include~~
30 ~~increased access to education by implementing longer school days,~~
31 ~~access to school uniforms and lunch programs for children, health~~
32 ~~clinics, and grants and loans to farmers to develop the agricultural~~
33 ~~economy; and~~

34 WHEREAS, The Assembly supports both state and federal
35 efforts to formulate strong partnerships with Central American
36 countries to promote economic development, education, and the
37 rule of law as a means to improve, stabilize, and democratize their
38 institutions, which will in turn help promote public safety and
39 curtail mass immigration; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
2 Assembly declares that all Californians, as residents of the United
3 States, have a civic responsibility to respect the human dignity of
4 immigrants seeking refuge in the United States and to ensure that
5 those immigrants are afforded due process and equal protection
6 under the laws of the United States, including safe passage to
7 medical care, as well as access to a mode of communication to
8 facilitate their repatriation back to Central America when doing
9 so *is consistent with their rights and* does not endanger their lives
10 and safety; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
13 Instruction, the State Library, and the California State Archives.